

### *Renovations to Glenn Miller Hall*

In 2002, College of Menominee Nation received a USDA Rural Development grant award of \$200,000 to help fund needed renovations to Glenn Miller Hall. The building was constructed in 1994 and currently houses administrative offices and classrooms. Originally the building plans called for a one-story classroom building. Rapid growth in student enrollment resulted in the redesign of the building to add a second story and a finished basement. The building is in need of renovation to address building code requirements and improve health and safety standards.



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## SUCCESS IN PARTNERSHIPS FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

### *USDA Rural Development & Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin*



#### *RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS*

##### *Menominee Indian Tribe*

- ◇ Keshena Wastewater Improvement
- ◇ Menominee Business Center
- ◇ Middle Village Apartments

##### *College of Menominee Nation*

- ◇ Carpentry Educational Facility
- ◇ Campus Parking Lot and Drive Way
- ◇ Renovations for Glenn Miller Hall
- ◇ Campus Water and Sewer Lines

### **Building a Brighter Future**



*Lisa Waukau  
Tribal Chairperson*

The Menominee Indian Tribe is very proud of the accomplishments that have been realized through its partnerships to build a brighter future for the Menominee people. Over the past several years, major strides have been made towards the improvement of the tribal infrastructure including the development of multi-family dwellings and the creation of a home mortgage program allowing tribal members to move out of federal housing into their own homes. These quality of life improvements are evident throughout the Menominee Reservation. Another major accomplishment is the charter of College of Menominee Nation. Since 1993 the Menominee Reservation has been the home of one of 32 Tribal Colleges in the United States. Through the foresight of the Menominee Tribal Legislature, higher education opportunities are a reality for both Native and non-Native communities surrounding Keshena. The impetus for this endeavor is the belief that a well skilled workforce makes for solid economic development.

Many accomplishments would not be possible without Legislative vision, the hard work and dedication of staff and the support and cooperation of the USDA–Rural Development and Indian Health Services. The Menominee relationship with these agencies has allowed for the leverage of limited available dollars to surpass dreams and goals.



*“It is our hope to  
maintain these  
partnerships for a  
better tomorrow for  
the Menominee  
people.”*

Lisa Waukau  
Tribal Chairperson



## The Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin

### Keshena Wastewater Improvement Project

The Village of Keshena (pop. 1,394) is located on the Menominee Indian Reservation approximately 50 miles Northwest of Green Bay.

For over thirty years, wastewater treatment has been processed through a sewage lagoon system. Due to community growth, upgrades were badly needed. This collection system currently supports 300 residential sites and 54 commercial sites including College of Menominee Nation, the Menominee Casino/Hotel, a Senior High School, and an elementary school.

In an effort to improve the feasibility for future growth in Keshena, a Wastewater Treatment Facility Engineering Study was conducted in August 2001 by Robert E. Lee & Associates of Green Bay. The consultants recommended an oxidation ditch treatment system as an alternative to the lagoon system with an estimated cost of \$3.8 million. Soon thereafter, an application for funding was submitted to the USDA Rural Development Rural Utilities Service seeking assistance with the project.

In February, 2002 the Menominee Tribe received notification from USDA-Rural Development indicating the Tribe was eligible for a \$2.7 million dollar grant and a \$900k loan through the agency. The Tribe also received a letter from Indian Health Services informing the Tribe they had \$315k allocated towards the wastewater improvement project. Through the collaboration of USDA-Rural Development and Indian Health Services, the Menominee Tribe applied the allocation to the loan and reduced its financial obligation.

Selmer Construction of Green Bay was hired as the General Contractor and construction on the Wastewater Improvement Project began in August, 2002. Construction is estimated to be completed in Summer 2003. This increase in wastewater treatment capacity will allow the Menominee Tribe to continue economic growth efforts for the Keshena community and the Reservation as a whole.

### Menominee Business Center

Over the past several years, the Menominee Business Center has worked with many organizations to improve economic development on the Menominee Reservation. These partnerships have included projects funded by the USDA-Rural Development, Wisconsin Department of Commerce, HUD-Indian Community Development and the Northwoods NiiJii Enterprise Community. One

example of how success in partnerships provide for growth in community based organizations is the Menominee Business Center.



In 1996, a 2,400 sq. ft. incubator project building was constructed near the Keshena library. This project was made possible by a Rural Development grant and matched with funds from the Menominee Indian Tribe. Currently, six of the nine office suites are being rented including space for an attorney, a vending machine business, a computer programmer, an Independent WICK homes dealer, a carpenter and an E.F.I.S. construction company. In addition, the Business Center is advised by the Menominee Partners for Economic Progress Board of Directors, a group of community volunteers with demonstrated experience in small business development.

As an integral part of a comprehensive economic development plan the Menominee Business Center provides for the development of local businesses. These efforts compliment the Tribe's commitment to encourage economic growth in surrounding areas.

### The Middle Village Apartments

The construction of Middle Village Apartments was made possible by funding through USDA-Rural Development. The project is a rental assistance program providing affordable housing for low income and very low income families, including the elderly. Qualified applicants pay reduced rent based on adjusted income. The apartment complex consists of three buildings with four two bedroom apartments in each building.



## College of Menominee Nation



Dr. Verna Fowler  
President, CMN

Over the last decade USDA-Rural Development and College of Menominee Nation have partnered to develop an infrastructure that will serve the future needs of the college. What was once a dream has become a realization as College of Menominee Nation has rapidly become one of the foremost institutions in the tribal college movement. Although it seems only yesterday that College of Menominee Nation began to build its foundation, the college is now preparing to launch its second decade.

The successes that have been realized, and those not yet realized, can only be possible through the support of organizations such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development. Projects such as the Carpentry Program Educational Facility, the Construction of a Campus Parking Lot and Drive Way, Renovations to Glenn Miller Hall and the Extension of the Campus Water and Sewer Lines are a few examples of the valued partnership College of Menominee Nation shares with USDA-Rural Development.

### Carpentry Program Educational Facility

College of Menominee Nation recently received a \$102,412 grant award from USDA Rural Development to help fund the design and construction of a much needed carpentry facility to house its Carpentry Program. The program provides fundamental requirements for working with general contractors. Many students have been placed in this program as "High Risk Students" and have performed in school, learned a trade, and competed in today's job market. The new facility will be constructed by Pre-Apprenticeship Carpentry Program students at College of Menominee Nation. The new facility will include a carpentry shop and classroom for instructional purposes, offices and related mechanical/bathroom facilities designed to serve student needs.



### Construction of Campus Parking Lot and Drive Way

Funding for this project (\$135,000) was received in 2001 to develop parking, roadways, lighting, and related signage on the College of Menominee Nation campus. Current parking lots on campus accommodate approximately 125 cars. This fall student enrollment increased to 530 making it necessary to address inadequate parking facilities and safety issues regarding roadways and driveways. This project allows the College to create parking and vehicular traffic patterns that are safe and efficient and that meet the long-term expansion goals of the college.



### Extension of Campus Water and Sewer Lines

In 2001, College of Menominee Nation received a USDA Rural Development grant for \$101,250 to help fund the extension of campus water and sewer lines. Over the past several years, as capital expansion needs have become greater and the student population has continued to spiral, the priority has been to provide classroom space in order to serve the students. This growth has left the existing water and sewer infrastructure inadequate to meet the needs of current facilities or any future capital expansion efforts. This funding partnership with the USDA Rural Development has provided the College the necessary resources to extend the water and sewer mains to the new additions and accommodate future buildings.